

Name

groff_rfc1345 – special character names from RFC 1345 and Vim digraphs

Description

The file *rfc1345.tmac* defines special character escape sequences for *groff*(7) based on the glyph mnemonics specified in RFC 1345 and the digraph table of the text editor Vim. Each escape sequence translates to a Unicode code point, and will render correctly if the underlying font is a Unicode font that covers the code point.

For example, “[**R**x]” is the “recipe” or “prescription take” symbol, and maps to the code point U+211E. *groff* lets you write it as “[**u**211E]”, but “[**R**x]” is more mnemonic.

For a list of the glyph names provided, please see the file *rfc1345.tmac*, which contains definitions of the form

```
.char \[Rx] \[u211E] \ " PRESCRIPTION TAKE
```

where **.char**'s first argument defines a *groff* special character escape sequence with a mnemonic glyph name, its second argument is a special character escape sequence based on the code point, and the comment describes the glyph defined.

The RFC 1345 glyph names cover a wide range of Unicode code points, including supplemental Latin, Greek, Cyrillic, Hebrew, Arabic, Hiragana, Katakana, and Bopomofo letters, punctuation, math notation, currency symbols, industrial and entertainment icons, and box-drawing symbols.

The Vim digraph table is practically a subset of RFC 1345 (being limited to two-character mnemonics), but, as a newer implementation, adds four mnemonics not specified in the RFC (the horizontal ellipsis, the Euro sign, and two mappings for the rouble sign). These have also been added to *rfc1345.tmac*.

rfc1345.tmac contains a total of 1,696 glyph names. It is not an error to load *rfc1345.tmac* if your font does not have all the glyphs, as long as it contains the glyphs that you actually use in your document.

The RFC 1345 mnemonics are not identical in every case to the mappings for special character glyph names that are built in to *groff*; for example, “[<<]” means the “much less than” sign (U+226A) when *rfc1345.tmac* is not loaded and this special character is not otherwise defined by a document or macro package. *rfc1345.tmac* redefines “[<<]” to the “left-pointing double angle quotation mark” (U+00AB). See *groff_char*(7) for the full list of predefined special character escape sequences.

Usage

Load the *rfc1345.tmac* file. This can be done by either adding “**.mso rfc1345.tmac**” to your document before the first use of any of the glyph names the macro file defines, or by using the *troff*(1) option “**-m rfc1345**” from the shell.

Bugs

As the *groff* Texinfo manual notes, “[o]nly the current font is checked for ligatures and kerns; neither special fonts nor entities defined with the **char** request (and its siblings) are taken into account.” Many of the characters defined in *rfc1345.tmac* are accented Latin letters, and will be affected by this deficiency, producing subpar typography (<https://savannah.gnu.org/bugs/?59932>).

Files

/usr/local/share/groff/1.23.0/tmac/rfc1345.tmac
implements the character mappings.

Authors

rfc1345.tmac was contributed by Dorai Sitaram <ds26gte@yahoo.com>.

See also

RFC 1345 <<https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc1345>>, by Keld Simonsen, June 1992.

The Vim digraph table can be listed using the *vim*(1) command “**:help digraph-table**”.

groff_char(7)